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POWER PLANT **SPARKS** ELECTRIFYING **DEBATE**

BY GARETH BARKIN

"I don't know where these people get off spreading around their fear and lies to the public. - Robert Morgan, SF Energy Co.

"What we will be losing is our future... people are dying here.'

- Linda Richardson, Southeast Alliance for Environmental Justice

he proposition of a new Bayview / Hunter's Point power plant, or 'cogeneration project,' as its would-be manufacturers refer to it, has created a great deal of controversy of late. The issue is heated: Those in favor of the plant accuse the other side of fear mongering, of being unduly worried, and of lying. Those opposed to the plant accuse its manufacturers of illegal bidding, of having a terrible environmental history, of buying off public opinion, and, most of all, of lying too.

What's at stake is a 240 megawatt natural gas burning plant, which has already passed many of the hurdles it needs, in order to be built in Hunter's Point. The plant has all but been approved by the California Energy Commission, the state organization responsible for performing assessments of everything from environmental impact to overall need. San Francisco Energy Company, the corporation behind the plant, claims the CEC's findings prove their plan to be safe and reasonable, and that it will have lasting economic benefits for the community. Linda Richardson, Director of Operations for The Southeast Alliance for Environmental Justice claims that the staff of the CEC opposes the plant, but that its commissioners, appointed by Governor Pete Wilson, approved it for political reasons. A great deal of rhetoric is being thrown around between the two camps, and a great deal of it cannot be corroborated, for either side. Companies like PG&E, embroiled in the middle of the affair, aren't talking. And the internal workings of the CEC aren't as forthcoming as the accusations are. Key issues of the debate are

THE TWO EXISTING PG&E POWER PLANTS

Perhaps the most debated issue of the whole affair is the fate of the existing power plants which PG&E currently operates in BV/HP. If they were to continue to operate at current rates, the addition of the new plant would obviously create a significant increase in pollutants released into the air. If, however, PG&E were to shut down the plants, or most of their generators, the picture becomes more fuzzy, since the newer plant would meet current pollution standards, while PG&E's plants are approximately 50 years old. In fact, air quality legislation to take effect in the year 2001 will render the PG&E plants all but useless, able to operate only 2 weeks per year, unless they are retrofitted to meet the new standards — a great expense.

What is known is that SF Energy Co. and PG&E have not yet reached an agreement regarding the sale of power from the proposed plant. SF

Continued on page 4...

Bernal elders celebrate receipt of major federal grant award



Awarded a national grant to expand their innovative service to frail and homebound seniors, the Neighborhood Elders Support Team held an open house in November to celebrate the federal Administration on Aging award. Staff and NEST supporters pictured: Carmen Mendieta, Frank Hutchins, Alice Gilbeaux and Joan Brown. See page 10...

Willie Brown outlines his vision for **San Francisco and Bernal Heights**



Candidate Brown enjoys a moment of levity during his stop at the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center.

by Gareth Barkin and seniors alike.

Front-running mayoral candidate Willie Brown spoke to Bernal Heights senior citizens last October 25, about what he would do for the city, and why they should cast their ballots for him. Assemblyman Brown, who, along with current mayor Frank Jordan, made it into the runoff in the runoff election to be held December 12, took the opportunity to outline his positions on various issues. The stop was made as part of his pre-runoff campaign effort.

Brown chose to speak at the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center, because it houses a large senior citizen program. He arrived shortly after the seniors had finished their daily lunch, and was given a flattering introduction by center director Mauricio Vela, who praised his commitments to youth

Brown then gave a brief speech in which he first emphasized the value of education, and stated his desire to improve the school system in the city. "I will enlist the aid of the most talented people in the whole city toward this end," announced the former Speaker of the House. He also stressed his understanding of the need to listen to the people of the city, rather than telling them what they need; a behavior he apparently felt other candidates had been indulging in.

He told the seniors that, with their support, he was assured a runoff victory, stressing his viability as a candidate. Also mentioned was his plan to have open commission meetings on Saturdays, so that working people could attend them.

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Your Friendly Neighborhood Pet Store



Jim and Dorothy Chisholm behind the counter of their pet store, "San Francisco Pet & Aquatics" Story on Page 7

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Additionally, Brown stated that he intended to hold open office hours, which any San Francisco resident could take advantage of — a policy which, he claimed, is unique among mayors of major cities in this country.

Other issues which Brown touched upon were his desire for a safer, cleaner MUNI, a more respected police force, and more affordable housing throughout the city. During a brief question period, he claimed that he would not participate in a mayoral debate unless Ben Hom, a Republican

candidate with very low poll ratings, was allowed on the floor as well. He did, however, participate in a debate the next week to which Hom had not been invited. Hom protested vocally outside the proceedings.

In response to a question regarding the proposed cross-town sewer shaft, which would vent sewage fumes at the top of Bernal Hill, Brown claimed there was not enough money to do the job, and that it would therefore not be completed, "in our lifetimes." He did not, however, take a position on the issue.

Holiday celebrations around **Bernal Heights**

by Kristin Hofso

Look for special decorations and events on Cortland Avenue this holiday season. The Cortland Merchants Association is sponsoring decorations and events all through the holiday season.

New for this year is a "Friday night on Cortland" celebration. This event is geared towards adults. There will be strolling jazz musicians on the street and stores serving wine, cheese and other goodies. It will happen on Fridays, December 8th and 15th from 5-9pm. The restaurants will be crowded and all the stores will be open for your holiday shopping.

In early December the holiday lights and decorations on will already be up. This year the merchants are sponsoring decorative holiday flags to be posted all along Cortland Avenue. In addition, a special contest will be held for the best holiday decorations along this emerging shopping strip. The Cortland Merchants Association will be giving out prizes in the following categories "Best Decorated Store Front", "Prettiest Building"

features of the buildings is encouraged), "Fanciest Tree" and "Most Festive Window". A local artist will be asked to judge the competition.

St. Kevin's Choir will have their annual caroling on Saturday December 16 between 2:30 and 4:30PM. St. Kevin's is also having their traditional New Years Eve Dance with full buffet and dancing at the St. Kevin's Parish Hall.

There are also a several family events coming up. A new holiday event this year is the "Fun, Games and Goodies," for kids on Saturdays afternoons. Look for this event in all the stores along Cortland Avenue on Saturday the 9th and 16th from 2-4PM. There might even be a surprise visitor!

The library also has several holiday programs for kids celebrating a diversity of cultures and faiths, including Hanukah, Kwanzaa, Christmas, and the Swedish festival of St. Lucia.

Also look for more holiday events at the Neighborhood Center, Bernal Books, the restaurants, bars and cafes. There is a full list in the Bernal Calendar.



The New Bernal Journal is a bi-monthly neighborhood newspaper sponsored by the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center. It is dedicated to providing the people of Bernal Heights with community news, ideas, issues, and events that support the Center's mission: "To empower people in efforts to preserve the ethnic, cultural, and economic diversity of Bernal Heights and improve the economic condition of low and moderate income people in Bernal Heights." The New Bernal Journal is distributed door to door, free in Bernal Heights. Articles express the views of contributors and not necessarily those of the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center

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Many children in the Bernal Heights area may be suffering from lead poisoning, especially children living in older houses and apartments.

Lead poisoning happens when lead gets into children's bodies. Even a small amount of lead can stunt children's growth, reduce their ability to hear, learn, read, think, pay attention and sit still. Sometimes the lead poisoning symptoms can be mistaken for the flu, and when the illness caused by the lead is advanced it cannot be cured.

If you have children in your home under the age of 6 (even for child care or regular visits) or you are pregnant, Bernal Heights Housing Corporation would like to help you by:

- Answering any questions you may have about lead poisoning
- Checking your home with you for signs of lead hazards
- If needed, having your home tested for lead and made lead safe, possibly for free, depending on income level

In addition, there is funding available through the Mayor's Office of Housing for free repairs in homes where lead hazards are found and *low-income* children six years or younger are present. These grants are available for repairs even if the family living in the building is not the owner of the property.

If you need additional information, please contact Eury Ramos, Lead Program Coordinator, at (415) 206-2150 OVER 30 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE
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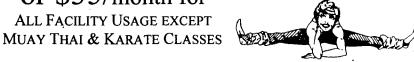
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Power cont'd from page 1...

Energy proposed an agreement in April of 1994, but PG&E refused to sign it, and is currently contesting its validity in court. Robert Morgan, Director of Site Certification for SF Energy claimed that it

was unclear whether the agreement was even necessary. He went on to claim that PG&E intended to close "Two of the three units, putting them on 'Standby Reserve' status." This would give them the right to reactivate the units in the future, should they deem it necessary. Of

course these units will also be rendered obsolete in 2001, making it illegal to run them for any length of time.

But the concept of "Standby reserve status" doesn't please Richardson. "PG&E has stated that this is NOT a replacement. They intend to retrofit some of these units [so they could be operated after 2001], and even if they put them on standby, they could turn them back on at any time. Standby is not the same as replacement."

There seemed to be some confusion at PG&E over the matter as well. Peter Ouborg, who works in media relations for the power giant, was unclear about the company's position on the matter, and refused to state a policy without a PG&E lawyer present. Scott Blakey, the lawyer that Ouborg expected to clear the situation up, claimed he was too busy to answer questions, and would not return later phone calls. Before he had defaulted to the lawyer, however, Ouborg said that he knew of no plans to shut down any of PG&E's current plants. He said the CEC had demanded 2 units be decommissioned, and that PG&E had instead agreed to put them on standby. He also said he was talking about 2

units out of 6, not out of 3, calling into question the 'unit' measurement used by SF Energy.

The bottom line appears to be the lack of a binding agreement between SF Energy and PG&E. This means that anything is still possible, including the option of PG&E retrofitting their existing

"This is a minority community, for God's sake! It is unethical"

-- Linda Richardson

plants, effectively allowing them to keep them running indefinitely. Although SF Energy claims they have always talked to PG&E about selling 100% of their power, Margaret Verges of SAEJ said she believes they could sell the power to other communities, if there were a surplus. Morgan claims this assertion is, "a flat out lie."

Environmental Racism

"AES [a parent company of SF Energy] is engaged in a multimillion dollar propaganda campaign. This is a minority community, for God's sake! It is unethical," says Richardson of the plan to locate the plant in Hunter's Point. "Do you know what we already have in this neighborhood?"

In addition to the two PG&E power plants, the Bay View / Hunter's Point community is host to a Federal and a State Superfund site, 58 reported underground storage tanks which leak, 9 acutely hazardous material facilities, 22 businesses licensed to store hazardous materials, and 81 sites currently being reviewed by the Local Oversight Program. Residents are predominantly African American, with sizable proportions of

Asian/Pacific Islanders and Latinos. Cancer rates are reportedly much higher than national averages, both in BV/HP and in San Francisco as a whole. Breast cancer, in particular, is supposedly ten times the national average in BV/HP.

"And isn't that a great issue for them to link to the power plant," said Morgan, when confronted with the claim.
"The truth is there has been no research linking power plant emissions with breast cancer. This is just another way they try to generate fear in the public. It's all about fear and lies."

Richardson agreed that there was no hard evidence, "because power companies themselves are the only ones to undertake such a study. We can't wait for the results of a 30 year experiment, this is just common sense."

Indeed, San Francisco Supervisors Alioto, Hallinan, and Bierman have co-sponsored legislation which would create a moratorium on major industrial developments in BV/HP until a health assessment of the area can be completed. Alarming rates of respiratory ailments have been noted, in addition to the previously detailed cancer statistics. In addition

cer statistics. In addition to the air pollutants, it is widely accepted that electro-magnetic fields, generated by high voltage power lines, significantly increase cancer risks, especially among children.

Morgan dismisses the health risks, citing the CEC's own assessment. "There was an 18 month review which covered everything: That the plant is really needed, that it is state-of-the-art, as clean as is technologically and humanly possible, that it is a significant improvement over

existing plants in the area, and that our commitment to the community is genuine."

"There's no way we can take this anymore," counters Richardson, "people are dying here. San Francisco is only 49 square miles; it won't just be my community that suffers if this plant is built. A beautiful city like this deserves better. [This plant would dump] 320 tons of pollution into the air each year. You don't have to have a Ph.D. to know what that's going to do."

Economics

SF Energy has promised 50% of all jobs, both during construction and after, will go to members of the BV/HP community. All contractors and sub-contractors will have to sign contracts to that effect. During construction, estimated to be a 24 month period, this could mean hundreds of jobs. After the plant is operational, only 25 people will be required to operate it, meaning only 12 permanent jobs for the neighborhood.

Additionally, SF Energy and their parent corporations, AES and Southern Natural Gas, have promised 13 million dollars will be given to the community over the next 30 years. An advisory board

"...there has been no research linking power plant emissions with breast cancer"

-- Robert Morgan

will be created, composed primarily of community members, which will help decide where the money is to go. SF Energy, however, will make all final decisions, and the board will dispense advice only. SF Energy has already started to give money to the community, including a \$10,000 contribution toward a school library. SF Energy literature quotes the principal of the school, Faye Anderson, as saying, "SF Energy is one company that put their money where their mouth is. There were no strings attached. I didn't have to sign-off on anything."

The allegations they are trying

to counter are best articulated by Richardson's argument: "This is a payoff. What about the health costs? What kind of industries will we attract with a power plant?" Richardson claims that the money will only be given to organizations that support the power plant, or will agree to support it. "What we will be losing here in future industry will be worth much more than 13 million dollars. The decrease in property values alone will be enormous, and it has already begun to happen," she explained.

To the issue of new jobs for the community, Richardson countered, "After two years you destroy a community. At what cost do these jobs come?" Concerned with the long-term economic vitality of the neighborhood, Richardson stated her organizations' support for a proposed naval shipyard, and maritime academy in BV/HP. "We welcome these industries," she explained, "but we can't take anymore pollution — people are dying here."

When asked about the issue of giving money only to those organizations which support the power plant proposal, Morgan said, "We picked worthy causes, and we put our money where our mouth is." He denied the accusation, but failed

to explain how SF Energy determined which causes were the "worthy" ones.

BERNAL HEIGHTS

How the emissions from the proposed power plant will affect air quality in Bernal Heights is also contested by the two sides. "Parts of Bernal

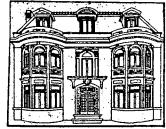
Heights will be less than a mile away from the plant," stated Richardson, "and the CEC has listed you as a 'Sensitive Receptor' — you will suffer significant air degradation."

"Totally untrue," said Morgan, "we take very seriously our safety and environmental record. Studies of the weather patterns show the wind blows toward the bay for two-thirds of the year, and a little bit in each direction for the remainder. Toward Bernal Heights, maybe one tenth of the year."

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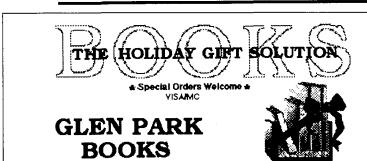
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ergy, has been the target of numerous accusations from environmental groups, including Greenpeace. Allegations include:

- Neglecting to notify the state of toxic spills
- Illegal dumping
- Falsifying reports

• Deceiving local governments Many of these accusations are documented, but their significance is contested. Asked specifically about each incident, Morgan offered explanations. "The 'toxic spill' we didn't notify the state about was just lime. They used to make tennis courts out of it. We cleaned it up, and thought that was enough." Greenpeace claims the spill was not cleaned up adequately, and that the same plant, in Newell, California, has been fined several

The question becomes the relative severity of AES' transgressions. Clearly there are a number

other times for various illegal ac-

tivities.

of instances which look very bad, but the possibility exists that these instances could be standard tribulations that every power company runs into. That's what SF Energy claims, and they assert that AES has a safety and environmental record superior to national industry averages. The comparison, however, is based on AES's selfreported statistics.

"They make PG&E look like angels," said Richardson of AES' record. "They dangle all this money as bait," she stated, "but don't think it won't affect you. Don't think that it won't reduce your property value. And don't think that it won't kill people."

The final approval from the CEC is expected some time this month, and then the proposal must be approved by the Board of Supervisors. Those interested in

communicating their opinions are encouraged to write to the supervisors as soon as possible. FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: Greenpeace

(415) 512-9025 568 Howard St., 3rd Floor San Francisco, CA 94105

PG&E (415)973-5930 P.O. Box 52001 San Francisco, CA 94152 San Francisco **Energy Corporation** (415) 395-7899 3801 Third Ave San Francisco, CA 94124

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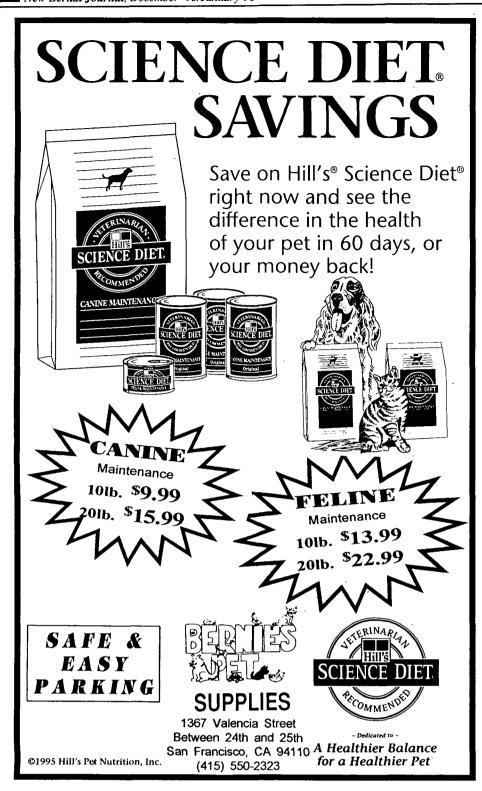
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Halloween - Quite a few kids on Cortland



Bernal Kids prepared to hit the streets on Halloween.

by Kristin Hofso

Kids from all over Bernal Heights came trick-or-treating on Cortland Avenue this Halloween. The merchants and neighbors gave out bag after bag of candy. The Cortland Merchants Association had arranged for all the stores to stay open from 5-8pm, and be ready with goodies for the trick-or-treaters. "The Merchants wanted to provide a safe and fun environment for the kids on Halloween," says David Rogers, president of the Merchants Association.

"It is the most successful Halloween for kids I have ever seen," said Donna Roberts of Brown Bear Realty. Roberts returned to Reliable Grocery five times to restock her supply of candy. Finally, the grocery store ran out, and a desperate Roberts attempted to substitute peanuts. The kids would have none of it. Their parents had told them to only accept individually wrapped candies, and that's what they did.

Dorothy Coakley, the children's librarian, had organized a haunted house in the library basement for the kids to visit. "We had a line all evening and gave out 500 candy canes before we ran out." The Dark Horse, an antique store on Cortland, had its own haunted house of sorts. The store was decked out with skeletons and cobwebs lit by dozens of candles and lanterns. Kids loved it.

One bicycle policeman was on the street to make sure everything was safe. But there was no trouble at all. Just hundreds of kids dressed as goblins, fairies, princesses, death, and Freddie Kruger, milling around on Cortland from Nikos on Anderson to the Deli Pub on Bocana. "We are definitely making this a yearly tradition," said Kathleen of Heartfelt.



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Although the *NBJ* is currently delivered to each doorstep in Bernal, some volunteers are doing more than their share. To save them from burnout, if any neighbors who live on the blocks listed below are interested in volunteering, please contact Mauricio Vela at the BHNC, 206-2140. *It's only a six time per year committeent and you can be part of a 33 year old Bernal* tradition!

Street Name	Block Number	Street Name	Block Number		
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Bronte	000-200	Bradford	200-300		
Highland	300-400	Crescent	200-300		
Bache	1st Block	Porter	1st block		
Roscoe	1st Block	Arnold	1st block		
Holly Park Circle	200 block	Mission	3500 block		
Stoneman	000-100	Shotwell	1400-1500		
Cortland	000-200	Winfield	000-400		
Prospect	000-400	Aztec	000-100		

With Gloria Allen

Gloria Visits That Funky, Little Pet Store On Cortland

ountless times I have driven past San Francisco Pet & Aquatics, a faded storefront adjacent to the Pizza Express, and wondered if there was any life or activity within. Today I am grateful that David Rogers, whose custom leather shop is on the next block of Cortland, suggested that I call Jim & Dorothy Chisholm who have operated their business out of this location for the past forty years. It is one of the oldest businesses on Cortland along with J.C. Supermarket, the Bank of America, and Arrow Pharmacy. Jim remembers earlier days when Cortland Avenue also had a bakery and a shoe repair shop.

Inside, the store is bubbling with the love of life that Jim and Dorothy have shared for each other over the past fortyseven years. It is a love they also feel for their community and the many young people who have crossed their path.

Jim started out raising tropical fish as a hobby, originally breeding them in his basement. With the help of a partner, he established credit with a large wholesaler and began importing fish from China, Japan, South America and Florida. When they outgrew the basement, they moved to Cortland. Jim bought out his partner and learned the art of dog grooming which — as Jim explains it — is in knowing how to relate to each individual dog. Jim continued to work for MUNI retiring after earning 3 MUNI "Man of the Month" awards for his safe and courteous driving. Dorothy worked at The San Francisco Naval Shipyard until it closed. Today in addition to running the store, she tutors students at Paul Revere School. Both she and Jim are also responsible for establishing black history exhibits at the

Jim and Dorothy met when they were teenagers. He came to the West Coast from the Midwest to live with his father, after his mother died. This early loss contributed to his resourcefulness. Dorothy came here from Louisiana, and while she was attending University High in Oakland she met Jim who was at Tech High. They have lived in their home in Oakland for the past 26 years. They have a son, daughter-in-law and grandson as well as the countless children whom they have lovingly guided to adulthood.

Jim likes to say that, "I set up my game plan." When Dorothy says that, "you get what you put in," Jim affectionately teases her for being the advocate of life. We had walked from the pet shop to Pizza Express, sat in a booth and sipped sodas served by John and Romisch, the owners of the place. Life is always brighter and warmer when we pause to visit with our



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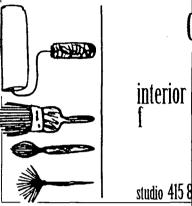
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r 206-2147 for more information.

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Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center News

Service to elders in Bernal one of the best in the nation

On November 15, the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center hosted an Open House to kick off their new project, the Neighborhood Elders Support Team. Elders, staff, agency representatives and friends gathered to toast the Center's honor: being one of the ten agencies nation-wide selected to receive an Administration on Aging Neighborhood Senior Care Program award.

David Ishida, Executive Director of the San Francisco Commission on the Aging, spoke of the importance of the Neighborhood Elders Support Team as a role model for other agencies in the city who serve seniors. Anne Warner-Reitz from the Bay Area Independent Elders Program said that NEST is the realization of her foundation's goal of developing new and effective ways to care for frail elders in the Bay Area.

The Neighborhood Elders Support Team (NEST) is an expanded model of the Center's case management program, the Bernal Elders Support Team (BEST). The award increases the program's capacity to serve frail and

homebound elders. Funding of \$119,838 from the Administration on Aging provides 69% of the cost of NEST's community-based model of senior service.

By the year 2010, the first batch of baby boomers in our country will become senior citizens. Our nation, however, is behind in developing cost effective systems of care needed to deal with this huge aging population. In response to this ultimate dilemma, the U.S. Department on Health and Human Services has awarded grants through the Administration on Aging to find innovative neighborhood solutions.

NEST helps frail elders to remain independent in their own homes by providing peer case management and coordinating neighborhood volunteers to provide practical and emotional support. By implementing the age-old tradition of neighbors helping neighbors, elders can avoid unnecessary institutionalization.

For more information about or to volunteer with the Neighborhood Elders Support Team, call 206-9177.

Bernal Heights Recreation and Park Department

1995 Program

Alternative Site -Paul Revere Playground, 555 Tompkins

Monday

3:30 - 4:30 Homework Assistance 4:45 - 5:45

Table Games or Kickball

Tuesday

3:30 - 4:30

Tutoring & Homework

Assistance

3:40 - 5:00

Volleyball Mechanics,

Running, Basketball 4:45 - 5:45

Arts & Crafts, Ping Pong, Checkers, Chess

Wednesday

3:30 - 5:00

Homework Assistance,

Running, Touch Football

5:00 - 5:45

Dance Program, Table Games

Thursday

3:30 - 5:00

Tutoring, Basketball, Running, Volleyball

5:00 - 5:45

Table Games, Tumbling, Exercise Program

Friday

3:30 - 5:45

Movie Day, Team Practices

Saturday

11:30 - 4:30

Youth Sports Play Day
(Youth decide which sports

to play)
Day Outings

Holiday Wish List

The Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center would like to ask your help in helping to make the season merrier for our youth and seniors!.

Volunteers Needed

Call Senior Services, 206-2145

- Sun. 12/10, 9:00 1:30. Able cooks to help flip pancakes and keep kitchen tidy at Pancake Breakfast fundraiser.
- Wed. 12/20, 10:00 11:00 or 1:00 2:00. Christmas Party for seniors needs a piano player and song leader to lead Christmas sing-a-long.

Christmas Gifts Needed

Call Youth Services, 206-2140

- Toy Give-a-way on 12/21 needs new toys for low income kids and youth, especially for kids ages 10 12 years old.
- Christmas Wrapping Paper and ribbon needed to wrap toys for children and community youth.

Call Neighborhood Elders Support Team, 206-9177

Would you like to make a special Christmas for an isolated elder here in Bernal? Elves are working 'round the clock to find the following items for love-filled Yuletide baskets.

Cosmetic bags

Colorful headbands

Kleenex

Blank greeting cards, stationery

Postage stamps

Picture frames

Large print books

Nightlights

Crossword puzzles, word search games

Boxed candies and cookies

Boxed or packaged teas

Safeway, Walgreen's, or bakery gift certificates Sugar-free treats and candies

Personal Hygiene and Beauty Items:

shaving cream, disposable razors, soaps, lotions, cologne, powder, etc.

Baskets of any size, for filling with Christmas goodies

Small potted plants such as: poinsettias or little pine trees

Wrapping paper, ribbon and decorations

Gifts and fixings can be dropped off at 513 Cortland, or call the Neighborhood Elders Support Team at 206-9177 to make other arrangements.

We elves thank you for your kindness!

Need to get the job done?

Hire Youth!

Bernal Heights Youth Job Referral Line Ready for Work Program: 920–2691



Join the BHNC!

As a member who lives in Bernal you are eligible to vote for the BHNC Board of Directors at the Annual Community Congress, receive newsletters and meeting notices, participate in our services and activities, and have a say in shaping the future of Bernal Heights!

My annual membership dues are enclosed. I subscribe to the mission and goals of the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center.

apt. #	
ари п	
zip	
race/ethnicity (optional)	

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES:

- () Regular \$15
- () Church/Non-profits \$25
- () Senior or
- () Business \$50
- Low-income \$5
 () Youth \$1
- () Supporter \$50 () Friend \$100
- () Family \$25
- () new membership () renewal

Please return membership application to:

Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center 515 Cortland Avenue, San Francisco, 94110

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



Please bring your donations to the Neighborhood Center, 515 Cortland Avenue

9am - 6pm, Mon - Fri, or look for a neighborhood toy barrel

by December 15th for wrapping.

To volunteer or for info Call 206-2140.

Applications for children to receive gifts on December 21st are also available.

Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center News

Bernal Children and Youth Make Sure Brown and Jordan Remember them on Run-off Tuesday



Bernal youth are greeted in the campaign offices of Willie Brown as they pursue their 'Reminder Campaign.'

by Alfredo Vergara & Mauricio Vela

As election day nears, Bernal Youth gathered on Tuesday, November 21, to pay a visit to both Mayor Jordan and Assemblyman Brown campaign offices reminding them of their recent commitment to Bernal children & youth. The youth had written letters thanking both candidates for embracing. the Youthtime campaign. The letters included pictures of a van, which was recently funded by State Farm Insurance Company but stills needs to be insured, and pictures of our BHNC youth baseball teams. The Bernal contingent was well receive by both campaigns with youth leaving with campaign memorabilia, goodies and a commitment that both candidates would receive their reminder gifts. The Bernal Heights community had requested a van and expanded hours of youth activities as part of the city wide Youthtime campaign.

With the endorsement of all mayoral candidates last summer, a group of twenty neighborhoods from Bay View to North Beach to the Excelsior launched its youth support campaign for 1995.

A project of Coleman Advocates for Children and Youth, Youthtime seeks to expand positive opportunities for youth in San Francisco, and with the overwhelming support shown by the mayoral candidates thus far, the youth list of

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neighborhood requests stands an excellent chance of being fulfilled and funded in 1996. This, of course, with the help of either a newly elected (or re-elected) mayor.

All twenty neighborhoods are participating in a "Reminder Campaign" to make sure their request for-expanded services doesn't go unheard: Each neighborhood has picked a day between Monday 13 and Election Tuesday and has gathered youth and kids from each community to hand-deliver reminder presents to each candidate, as part of the effort.

For Bernal children and youth, the Youthtime campaign has provided an opportunity for our youth to work with youth from twenty other neighborhoods to bring youth issues to the forefront and addressing the mayoral campaigns who before were thought to be inaccessible.

Seniors can take steps to avoid foreclosure traps

By Michael Braslaw

A senior citizen who has lived in and owned their home for the last 35 years is evicted and forced to leave the property that was formerly theirs. Their home is in fore-closure after taking out a home equity loan to make some construction repairs, that they have been unable to repay. This scenario is not, unfortunately, an isolated incident.

Foreclosure on homes owned by senior citizens is very prevalent in San Francisco. What does it mean when a house is in foreclosure? In the scenario above, the individual defaulted on a home equity loan, which is a type of loan that allows a person to borrow money against the equity that they have in their home. Equity is usually defined as the estimated value of the house minus the amount that is still owed on the house. If a person owns their home outright the equity is 100%. When a person takes out a home equity loan the lender will have that person sign a deed of trust. The deed of trust gives the lender the right to sell property if the person who borrowed the money falls behind on their loan payments. When the borrower is in default of the loan, the property may go to foreclosure. Foreclosure means that the property can be sold at a public auction without having to go to

As a homeowner, your house is likely to be the most valuable asset that you own. When a homeowner uses their home to secure a loan there is a chance that the home will fall into foreclosure. Foreclosure problems are easy to fall into and difficult to get out of.

However, there are steps that the consumer of a home equity loan can take to avoid the pitfalls of foreclosure on their home. It has been said many times that the best consumer is an informed consumer. This axiom is also true for the purchaser of a home equity loan.

An Eviction and Home Equity Scams Workshop will be scheduled in February by Bernal Heights Senior Services. Seniors can learn:

- Ways to identify and avoid home equity scams
- Affordable options through HUD or other sources for repairs and maintenance instead of home equity loans
 - Ways to identify reputable lenders
- Budget and cash management assistance to avoid eviction or fore-

closure

• Community services available if an eviction or default occurs.

This workshop will be presented by the Salvation Army/Sheriff's Eviction Assistance Program and Consumer Credit Counseling Service. Our goal is to help homeowners remain homeowners. For more information, call the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center or Housing Corporation at 206-2140

The BHNC & BHHC would like to thank and acknowledge Michael Braslaw for graciously volunteering his time and skills in helping us to present this important issue to our community.

Smoke detectors save lives

Free detectors available for seniors

As part of a national home fire safety program that urges Americans to install smoke detectors in their homes, the San Francisco Fire Department is providing a limited supply of smoke detectors the elderly.

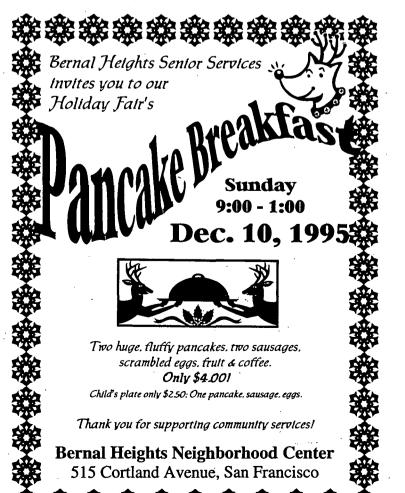
The fire department requires that a smoke detector be installed in every sleeping area of your home. They can be mounted on either the ceiling or the wall, but never within 6 inches of where the ceiling and wall meet, or from a corner. They should not be mounted near a ceiling fan or near a heat register.

You should periodically test your smoke detector's battery. A battery should be replaced at least once a year. A good policy to remember to change your battery is when you change your clock back for daylights savings.

Applications for these free smoke detectors can be completed and returned by 12/20/95 to Bernal Heights Senior Services, 515 Cortland Avenue or call us at 206-2142 and leave your name and address and we will mail you an application.

For questions or more information about smoke detectors, contact Firefighter Fernando Juarez of the Bureau of Fire Prevention at 558-3300.





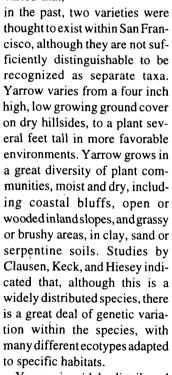
Bernal Hilltop Natural History

Yarrow: A Native Species That Stands Up To The Competition

by Barbara M. Pitschel

Although we must do everything in our power to preserve rare and endangered species, we must take care not to undervalue the more successful survivors among our flora. Those of us involved in native plant restoration have reason to appreciate native species that are able to out-compete some of the invasive exotic plants. Achilea Millefolium (Yarrow or Milfoil), a member of the sunflower or daisy family (Compositae or Asteraceae), is a prime example of this phe-

nomenon. Our yarrow is part of an extremely variable circumpolar species that is widespread in its distribution throughout most countries in the Northern Hemisphere. The species is so varied that,



Yarrow is widely distributed in most of San Francisco's natural areas — the Presidio, Lands End, the western sand dunes, Pine Lake, Lake Merced, Laguna Honda, Twin Peaks, Mt. Davidson, San Miguel Hills, the hills of southeastern San Francisco, and San Bruno Mountain.

Yarrow foliage begins to grow right after the first rains. The alternate, finely dissected, softly hairy leaves are two to four

inches long and have a strong, jasmine-like fragrance. The species name *Millefolium*, which means thousand-leafed, describes the fern-like structure of the leaves.

Numerous small, white flower heads form large, flattopped clusters throughout a long blooming season that often lasts from February to August. The plant grows from a perennial rootstock and spreads via underground stolons (or modified stems) and by seeds.

Yarrow was one of the plants collected by Adelbert Von

Chamisso, a botanist on the Russian discovery expedition in 1816. Achillea was named for Achilles, the Trojan War hero who was supposed to have been the first person to have used the plant medicinally. A tincture

made from yarrow has been used since ancient times to treat colds, fevers, and many other human ailments. Leaves steeped in hot water are used as antiseptic applications to cuts and bruises. Spanish Californians used fresh plant for stanching blood in recent wounds.

In Sweden, yarrow is used as a substitute for hops in brewing beer. The superstitious regard it as a potent love charm when plucked by a lovelorn maiden from the grave of a young man while repeating the proper formula (which I don't know).

Besides being a good competitor against weeds, yarrow is a good erosion controlling plant. Horticulturist Fred Rinne has observed that it is also an important host for several beneficial insects that eat aphids, and to our local native insects, including the Painted Lady butterfly.

If we receive some rain, you will be able to see the new growth of yarrow and other native plants when you join our restoration work parties at 11 am on the third Sunday of each month. Call me at 282-5066 for details.

Whadda Ya Think?

by Snapper Hedd

What new business does Bernal need?

Asked on and around Cortland Avenue

Reggie Thomas, 34, 8 year Bernal resident

"Some sort of music store — a buy and sell kind of thing. Every good neighborhood needs one. It should be one that specializes in international music, from Africa, the islands, Asia, etc. World Music. And it should definitely have albums as well as CDs and cassettes. And it should have knowledgeable people working for it."

Cassandra Houghton, 27, SOMA resident whose son attends Little People school

"I like Bernal Heights the way it is. There's something about not being too cluttered. Everyone goes to the same places; there's a real sense of neighborhood here. You see families, people say 'hello' to you on the street. I love Bernal Heights! I want to move here. In fact, I'm looking for a 2 bedroom apartment, if anyone's renting."





Vernon Ferguson, 36, over 30 year Bernal resident

"When I was younger, we had a movie theater, and that would be nice to have again. I think people would enjoy seeing the old classics. The old theater was down by Ellsworth, where the church is. I think a revival movie house would be great for this neighborhood."

Valentin Porras, 37, 1 year Bernal resident

"We need a place that sells coffee beans — there's no place to get them. A Peet's kinda place would be good, but preferably not a chain. Something local would be good — a resident opening up a shop. It could sell cheese, and that sort of thing as well. Not a cafe, you understand. And it should stay open 'till nine. Also, a clothing store would be nice — something semi-sheeshie. And a general hardware store."





Peter Money, 32, Bernal Library employee

"I'm always in favor of more galleries. And, not that I'd use it, but a gym would be nice. Definitely a bike shop, although I don't own a bike. But I think people should ride bikes more. Also a pottery store, and a garden shop. I'm glad there's finally a bookstore."

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A REGULAR COLUMN IN WHICH THE EDITOR ABUSES THE PRIVILEGES OF HIS POSITION FOR THE AMUSEMENT OF THE READERS. by Gareth Barkin

Scene from the next James Bond film, "Your Company's Name Here"

Q: "007, your new automobile is a 'Geo Metro' — it's got a lawnmower engine and the aesthetics are ... rather sobering, but it gets 54 miles to the gallon, and comes fully equipped with A/C, sporty alloy wheels, and a driver's side airbag, good for those hair raising chases you're always getting yourself into."

Bond: "Jolly good, Q, once again I see I can trust you to make a sensible automotive decision, choosing the model with the best resale value year after year, and a generous options package."

Q: "Quite right, 007, and we were able to secure a 36 month lease with zero down, and low monthly payments of only £139. And I'm happy to say we didn't have to haggle over the features we wanted, and we left the dealership with £500 'cash back,' which I've had deposited into your casino account in Monte Carlo..."

And so went my grim vision of the future as I defiantly toured the showroom of BMW, the company which has made history by proving that you can buy a place in the Bond legend. And they aren't keeping quiet about it either: all city media were invited to this pseudo black-tie event in which they had converted "BMW of San Francisco" into a fake casino and pumped obnoxious Bond theme music through a rented sound system. At least I assume it was all city media, since I had been invited. On display was their new 'roadster,' a vehicle which had been judged in need of an unpresidentedly blatant advertising tie-in.

The car itself looked like an enormous novelty slipper. In fact, I wouldn't mind getting a hold of a pair of BMW slippers, if they use the same supple, leatherette interior as the roadster. If you can't afford the car (and I'm not saying I can't, although, in fact, I can't),

I'm sure they're the next best thing — assuming you're comfortable with the leap from

a butt-ugly marriage of corporate art and aggressively green leather. Disturbing to the eye, a glance at this wasteful vanity yielded but a single message: time to get a new watch.

But free timepieces were only the beginning: there were also free hors d'oeuvres. I approached an elephantine man at the buffet table who was making only a token effort to disguise the fact that he was eating an entire smoked salmon. "I go through a BMW every two years," he coughed. I couldn't take my eyes of his cummerbund, which, stretched to the breaking point, appeared to be flashing me an S-O-S. Indeed his whole tuxedo appeared on the verge of bursting open, and I noted gravely that I was positioned directly in the path of whatever might pop out.

"A Beamer every two years, huh? You must be going too easy on them," I said stupidly. My intention had been to sound witty and rich, but at the last minute I opted for idiocy instead. I was competing against a house, dressed as a man, over who could destroy luxury automobiles more rapidly. In reality, I was wondering whether he simply threw them away after he'd collapsed the seat.

The man turned and stared at me with eyelids half-closed and a half-open mouth — the same expression with which he had greeted the salmon. Noticing that the salmon had disappeared, I left abruptly.

> Soon I noticed a series of raised platforms throughout the showroom. Now and then, one of three tall, lanky models would step onto one and pose languidly for all to see. It was like the opposite of a freak show — here were a group of hideously attractive people, on display to make it clear that something is terribly wrong with you. Feeling the bravado of the British secret agent we were all inadvertently celebrating, I approached one of them and told her I was from the Guardian. Surprisingly, this seemed to impress her, and suddenly I had a situation on my hands. I quickly found I was able to defuse the predicament, however, simply by being myself.

> Next I approached the roulette wheel — after all, I wasn't there on a social call. Naturally, I played my system. My system, in a nutshell, involves betting only on 'Red.' If that doesn't seem to be working, I switch to 'Black.' Then back to 'Red.' Before I knew it, my pockets were bulging with hard, cold, plastic chips worth absolutely nothing. and which made me look as though I had a large growth on either leg. My condition elicited the sympathy of the dealership owner's wife, who gave me tickets to the premiere of the new Bond film, scheduled to take place the next night.

> I went, of course, because the price was right, but also because someone said Pierce Brosnan was going to be there. But everyone who showed up was from the BMW thing the night before. Boy, did I feel like the fool. But not as foolish as I felt after watching that movie for two and a half hours. Or on the sidewalk afterwards, when I stepped

Oh, and one final note: If you're looking for that special gift that'll let him (or her) know just how you feel about them this holiday season. why not say it with a genuine BMW 'Roadster' wrist-watch? Swiss engineering meets surprisingly green leather in this heirloom quality timepiece he'll want

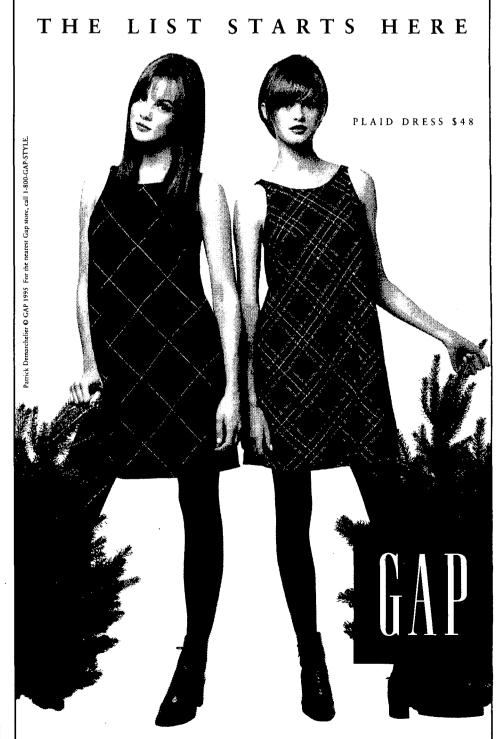
to hand down immediately. I can get you one cheap.

Yours Truly with a couple of 'Bond

Girls' - I told them I was Pierce Brosnan

luxury sports cars to indoor footwear. What I got instead was the 'Roadster Wrist Watch,' TreeCycling Day is on ReCycling Day This Year, Recycle Your Tree at the Curb. WHEN Curbside: Your first recycling day after January 1st, by 6 a.m. Apartments & Businesses: Your street's first residential recycling day after January 1st, by 6 a.m. (For businesses located in the downtown area, please call Golden Gate Disposal at 626-4000 to arrange for pick-up service.) HOW Just place your tree out on the curb. Trees only! No bases (metal or plastic), ornaments, tinsel, painted or flocked trees. Do not put your tree in a plastic bag. • Trees on the curb on other days will become trash. • If you need to recycle your tree before or after your designated TreeCycling day, or for more information, call the San Francisco Recycling Program Hotline at 554-6193

> San Francisco RECYCLING



Monday

Christmas day at the Wild Side West As always neighbors will be joining the regulars for food, caroling and good cheer at the Wild Side West on Christmas day. The Wild Side West, 424 Cortland, 647-3099.

Hangover Party

Monday January 1 come to the Wild Side West's traditional hangover party, to cure your New Year blues.

Tuesday

Spanish Conversation Social Meets Tuesday January 9 at 7 PM. Practice your Spanish conversation skills over some hot Mexican cuisine. Call Valentin at the Bernal Heights Library for details, 695-5160.

Spanish Film - Danzon The film "Danzon" will be shown in Spanish with English subtitles on Tuesday December 12 at 6:30 PM. Free. At the Bernal Heights Library, 500 Cortland, 695-5160.

Spanish Film - La Belle Epoche The Spanish language film *La Belle* Epoche will be shown in Spanish with English subtitles on Tuesday January 23 at 6.30 PM. Free. At the Bernal Heights Library.

Alex Candelaria plays every Tuesday evening at The Hungarian Sausage Factory, 419 Cortland. 648-2847.

Wednesday

Spanish Conversation

Ongoing Spanish Conversation program, every other Wednesday at 7PM. December 6, December 20, January 3, January 17 and January 31. On December 20 the mood will be extra festive with a pinata and other treats. All levels of Spanish speakers. At the Bernal Heights Library.

Hungarian Gypsy Violinist Every Wednesday night Tibor Horvath & Lena, Gypsy Violinist and Piano ac-companist, at The Hungarian Sausage Factory.

Every Wednesday Bingo at St. Kevin's. Games include Safari, Criss-cross, Good neighbor. Doors open at 6 PM. First game at 7.30 PM at Old Hall. (Entrance on Ellsworth betw.. Jarboe and Cortland.) Saint Kevin's Parish, 704 Cortland, 648-5751.

Seven

The Wednesday Night Jam Every Wednesday night a bunch of jazz musicians get together to jam at the Deli Pub, 301 Cortland, 285-1631.

Wednesday December 13 at 7 PM. Members of Margo Perin's writing class will read from their work. At Bernal Books, 401 Cortland, 550-0293.

Thursday

Book Release Party Bernal Books will hold a book release party for Diane DiMassa and "Revenge of the Hothead Paisan." At Bernal

Book Club

The Bernal Library adult reading group meets monthly to discuss a new book. December's book is "Wind in the Willows,' Thursday December 28 at 4 PM. January's book is "The Bean Trees," January 25 at 4 PM. New members are always welcome! At the Bernal Heights

Jazz Piano

Randy Craig, jazz pianist and composer, plays every Thursday evening at The Hungarian Sausage Factory.

Every Thursday night at 7 to 10 PM Michael Gold on Saxophone, Paul Mindrup on Piano and Lee Alexander on Bass jam for you. The Deli Pub.

Friday

Friday Night on Cortland Friday December 8 and Friday December 15 from 5 to 9 PM. A neighborhood holiday celebration featuring: Jazz mu-sic from strolling musicians on Cort-land, Wine and cheese served in the stores, Holiday specials and surprises. Stay for dinner in one of our restaurants or do some holiday shopping in the Cortland Avenue stores. Everybody will stay open until at least 9PM. For more information call Kathleen at Heartfelt 648-1380.

Berne Weiss Reads

On Friday December 1 at 8 PM author, poet and community activist Berne Weiss, will talk about her recent trip to Hungary. She is co-author of "Freedom: Narratives of Change in Hungary and Estonia." After the talk we will go a few doors down to Bernal Heights own Hungarian Sausage factory, for a taste of the real thing. Join us for this wonderful evening of food and tales from far away places. At Bernal Books.

Christmas Round-Robin Reading Friday December 15 at 7 PM, Bernal Books Literary Series will host this Round-Robin Event. Everyone is invited to help us read from the Christmas literary classic, "A Child's Christmas in Wales," by Dylan Thomas. Hot cider and surprise guest too. At Bernal Books.

Jazz Guitar Alex Candelaria plays every Friday evening at The Hungarian Sausage Fac-

Saturday

Christmas Carols

The St. Kevins Choir will have their annual Cortland Avenue caroling on Saturday Dec. 16 between 2.30 and 4.30 PM. Neighbors and shoppers, join us in celebrating the Christmas season.

Synthesizer Music Every Saturday night features Central European Lounge Musician Mirek Matousek on Synthesizer at The Hungarian Sausage Factory.

Last Saturday evening of every month, come dance to a live Hungarian folk band. December 30 and January 27, at The Hungarian Sausage Factory

Sunday New Years Eve Dance

Sunday December 31 at 8 PM to 1 AM. St. Kevin's Parish traditional New Years Eve Dance. This special event includes a full buffet dinner with drinks, music and dancing. At St. Kevin's Parish Hall. Call 648-5751 for tickets and more informa-

Flamenco Guitar

Gyorgy plays Classical and Flamenco Guitar every Sunday night at The Hungarian Sausage Factory.

Ongoing

Art Exhibit

Bernal Heights artist Meridy Volz, will have some of her paintings on display

paintings at the Barking Basset throughout the month of December The Barking Basset, 803 Cortland, 648-2146.

Cortland Avenue Holiday Decoration Contest

Merchants and Neighbors on Cortland Avenue are encouraged to go all out with their holiday decorations this year. The Cortland Merchants Association will award prizes in the following categories: "Best Decorated Store Front," "Prettiest Building" (white lights outlining features of the building encouraged), "Fanciest Tree" (on side-walk) and "Most Festive Window." Good luck everybody!

Events for Families, Kids and Teens

Monday

St. Kevin's Youth Program. SKY meets every Monday at 7 PM.

Meet at Old Hall (entrance on Ellsworth betw. Jarboe and Cortland.) Saint Kevin's Parish, 704 Cortland, 648-

Tuesday

Children's Videos

Every Tuesday morning at 10.30 AM the Library shows videos for kids ages 3 thru 7. At the Bernal Heights Library, 500 Cortland, 695-5160.

Homework Center

Every Tuesday evening 5-8 PM. Homework help available for school kids of all ages. Starting in December Homework help will also be available on Wednesday evenings. At the Bernal Heights Library.

Wednesday

Family Night

Every Wednesday at 7.30 PM is Family Night at the Library. Story hour, films, crafts, and entertainment for the whole family. At the Bernal Heights Library.

Come celebrate St. Lucia on Wednes-day December 13 at 7.30PM. St. Lucia is a Swedish holiday, that celebrates

the light and joy of the season with song. At the Bernal Heights Library.

Come celebrate Kwanzaa on Wednes-day December 27 at 7.30PM. Kwanzaa is a unique American Holiday that pays tribute to the rich cultural roots of Americans of African Ancestry. At the Bernal Heights Library.

Martin Luther King Celebration A program in honor and celebration of Martin Luther King's birthday. Wednesday January 10 at 7.30PM. At the Bernal Heights Library.

Children's Story-Time at Bernal Books Wednesday December 6 at 11AM, story-time with Sophie, featuring sto-ries and songs. At Bernal Books, 401 Cortland, 550-0293.

Thursday

Children's Story Hour

Ongoing program every Thursday at 10.30AM. Thirty minutes of reading for pre-schoolers. At the Bernal Heights Library.

Friday

Chess Club

Every Friday at 4 PM. Chess Club at the Library. Girls especially encouraged. Adults also welcome to come teach and play. At the Bernal Heights Library.

8aturday

Holiday Celebration for Kids

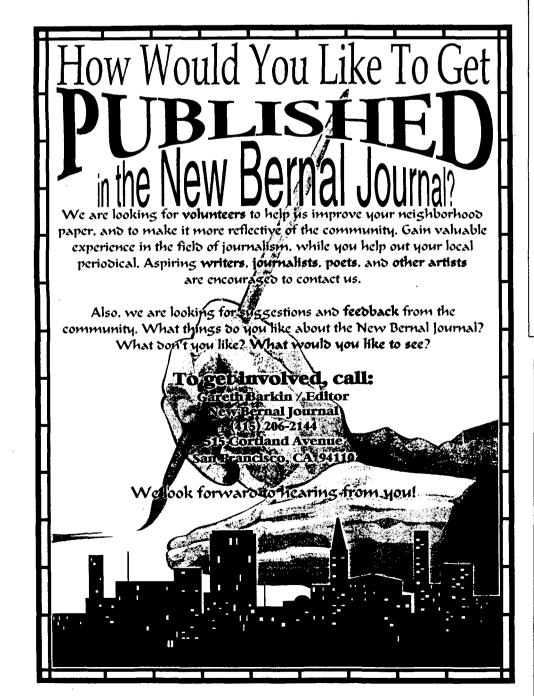
Saturday December 9 and 16 from 2 to 4 PM the Merchants along Cortland Avenue will have special events for the neighborhood kids. Look for music, games and surprises for the whole fam-ily. Come enjoy the festive holiday at-mosphere on Cortland Avenue.

Ongoing

Make a Holiday Card

Throughout the month of December. Make a Holiday Card for your family. Thanksgiving, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Christmas, New Year. At the Bernal Heights Library.

Bernal Heights groups, merchants, schools, block clubs and non-profits are invited to submit their special events and meeting announcements in the Bernal calendar. Small photographs or graphics can be included if space allows. Please submit your announcements to New Bernal Journal, 515 Cortland Avenue, SF, CA 94110 or call Kristin Hofso at Brown Bear Realty:



Environmental Tips

For The Holiday Season

by David Assmann

- Use recycled and reusable materials in your gift wrapping and packaging. By recycled wrapping paper, use air-popped popcorn or newspaper for packing and reuse your packing materi-
- · If you do purchase a tree, consider a live, potted or a reusable one. The Living Tree Company (800-810-PINE) offers free delivery and pick-up of potted trees for about the same price as a cut tree. Live rooted trees can be planted in pots to be used year after year, or planted outside or donated to Bay Area parks.
- · After the holiday season is over, save your old cards, wrapping paper and packing materials
- Call the Recycling Program 24-hour hotline at 554-6193 for a free copy of the Eco Holiday





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Advice for Relationships on the **H**ill

Dear Dr. Nabler,

I have been engaged in a casual relationship with a woman who lives in another city. We see each other every month or two, and generally have a good time, if you know what I mean. Because of the distance, I have not really thought of it as a relationship, although it has been the only romance of merit in my life for the past several months. The possibility of her moving here has come up, and there is a decent chance she will.

The trouble is that she keeps sleeping with other men. It doesn't bother me in theory, but I'm trying to make this into something, and I myself don't like to sleep with people whom I don't consider real candidates for a relationship. She seems like she'd sleep with anything possessed of a penis. There's no monogamy contingent in our little affair, and I wouldn't want there to be at this point, but hey: enough is enough. This is the 90s, and her behavior seems irresponsible to me. And on a gut level, I'm somewhat disgusted by the whole notion.

But is that just because I'm not sleeping with anyone myself? I don't want to go out and sleep with someone just to 'get even,' but maybe I would feel better if I did. Perhaps I'm just not cut out for casual affairs, and should cut the whole thing off. What to do?

-On the Fence

Dear On the Fence,

Why are you on the fence? You have a friend in another city. You see each other infrequently and she, if what you say about her is true, is not committed to you or anyone else. Even though you consider her behavior irresponsible and even disgusting you are wondering if you should behave just like her! That doesn't make sense. Perhaps you are hurt that whatever feelings you have for her aren't being reciprocated. If you are really attracted to her and want to have a relationship, let her know and see how she responds. All you have to lose may be your fantasies about this woman loving and caring for you. Once you've let go of that why not step out and find someone, right here, who can appreciate a person who wants more than a casual affair? Get off your fence and make it happen.

Dr. Nabler wants to know about your relationship problems! If you write in now, before she's popular or well known, you'll be virtually guranteed a spot in the column! To bathe in Dr. Nabler's infinite wisdom, address your letter to:

Dr. Nabler: c/o New Bernal Journal, 515 Cortland Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94110

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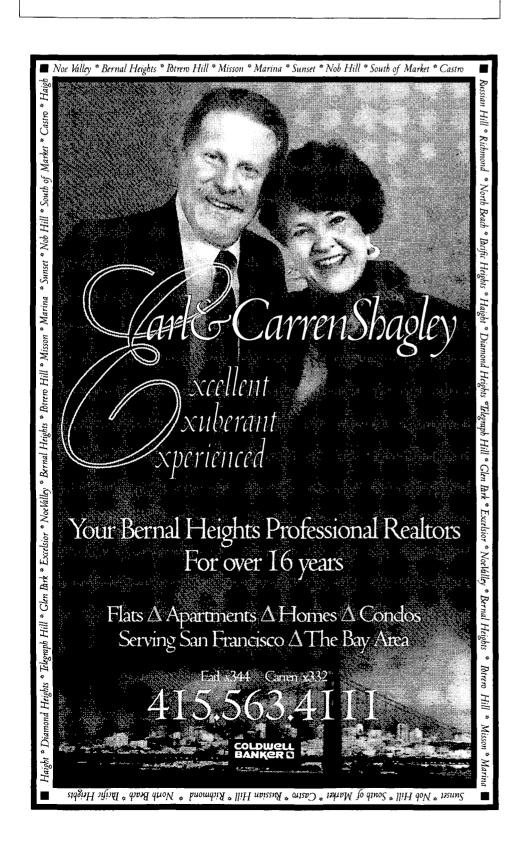
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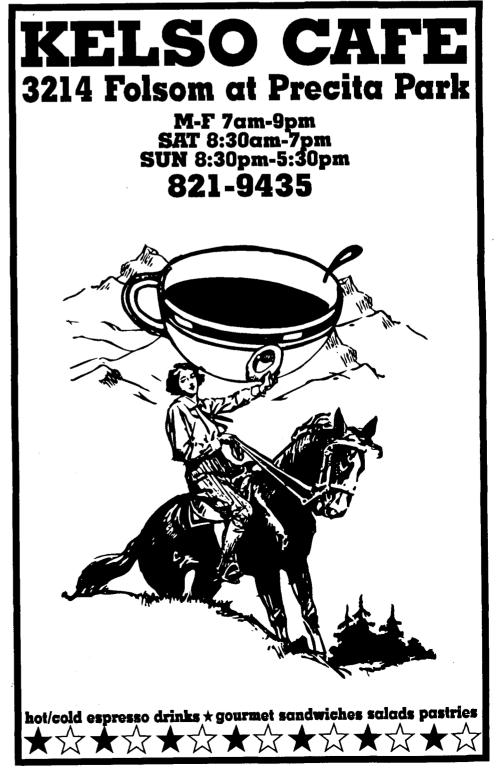
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